



JIM DOYLE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF WISCONSIN

April 14, 2006

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY:

I am vetoing Assembly Bill 1074. This bill would reduce the caps on attorney fees and prohibit the recovery of support staff and overhead costs in medical malpractice cases handled on a contingency fee basis.

I am vetoing this bill because it is unnecessary and it would limit access to the civil justice system for low-income and middle-income plaintiffs. Current law already caps contingency fees at one-third of the first \$1,000,000 recovered and 20% in excess of that amount. This bill substantially reduces the existing caps and would seriously undermine the existing contingency fee system in Wisconsin. While not perfect, contingency fee arrangements are often useful in helping to provide access to the legal system for injured consumers and patients.

Just because a low-income or middle-income person doesn't have thousands of dollars to put a lawyer on retainer doesn't mean they shouldn't have access to our system of justice. Unfortunately, this bill is a step toward reserving the justice system for the privileged, a step I cannot support.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM DOYLE
Governor